



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - October 31, 2002

- ***In the West***, cool, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork, including ***California's*** cotton harvesting and winter wheat planting. Meanwhile, cold weather is slowing or halting winter wheat development in the ***Northwest***, where many fields remain unfavorably dry despite recent rain and snow showers.
- ***On the Plains***, dry weather favors a limited return to fieldwork across ***southern portions of the region***. Meanwhile, extremely cold weather is inhibiting winter wheat development across the ***northern and central Plains***, although a one- to three-inch snow cover is providing much of the region with some insulation. This morning's low temperatures ranged from as low as -10 degrees F in parts of ***northern Montana*** to near 20 degrees F on the ***central High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cold weather continues to limit evaporation from soggy fields in the ***upper Midwest***, maintaining the slow pace of corn and soybean harvesting. Very cool conditions also persist in the ***southern and eastern Corn Belt***, hampering winter wheat development despite recent soil moisture improvements.
- ***In the South***, dry weather is allowing lowland flooding to subside in the ***western Gulf Coast region*** and permitting a gradual acceleration of fieldwork, including cotton and soybean harvesting, in the ***Delta***.

Outlook: A strong high-pressure system will settle across the ***northern Rockies***, maintaining very cold conditions across the ***Pacific Northwest*** and ***northern and central portions of the Rockies and Plains***. Farther east, cold air will slowly spread into the ***Midwest, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic States***, accompanied by scattered rain and snow showers, while cool, dry weather will prevail in the ***Southeast***. The greatest likelihood for precipitation will be across the ***central Rockies*** and ***central and southern High Plains***, where periods of light rain and snow will linger. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for November 5-9 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, Southeast, and New England***, while mostly dry weather is forecast for the ***nation's mid-section***. Below-normal temperatures are expected across the ***eastern half of the U.S.***, but above-normal readings are forecast across the ***Northwest***.

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